(b) whether it is a fact that the said plant is not acceptable anywhere in the world not even in Finland and that they have already rejected the plant; and

(c) if so. what circumstances prompted Government and the D.M.S. to purchase the plant?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICLTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Elecster Milk processing plant was purchased from M/S Tuomo Halonen Oy. Finland in March, 1983.

(b) The Government have no such information.

(c) Does not arise.

Integrated Policy for Urban Development

*6. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government propose to evolve an integrated policy for urban development; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): (a) and (b) The integrated policy of the Govt. on urban development has the following important objectives :—

1. (1) Urbanisation is to be treated as an integral part of the over-all economic growth & development.

(2) To stop migration of people to large cities by developing small and medium towns under the Centrally Sponsored scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns.

(3) To ensure balanced regional development and growth around large and metropolitan cities.

(4) To control and co-ordinate urban growth in and around national Capital Region.

2. (1) To improve environment of urban slums under the scheme of Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums.

(2) To provide basic services to the urban poor, particularly women and children, under the newly launched programme of Urban Basic Services.

(3) To provide better infrastructural facilities and shelter by providing finance through HUDCO and Housing Boards and under the State Plans.

3. To supplement investments in the urban sector by creation of special financial institutions such as (1) Urban Development and Urban Water Supply Finance Corporation, and

(2) National Housing Bank.

Implementation of Land Reforms During Seventh Five Year Plan

*7. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA :

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the implementation of land reforms is tardy in most of the States; and

(b) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken for the speedy implementation of land reforms during the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Land Reforms have been recognised to constitute a vital element both in terms of the anti-poverty strategy and for modernisation and

increased productivity in agriculture. Re-dstribution of land could provide a permanent asset base for a large number of rural landless poor for taking up land-based and other supplementary activities. Similarly, consolidation of holdings. tenancy regulation and updating of land records, would widen the access of small and marginal land-holders to improved technology and inputs and thereby directly lead to increase in agricultural production.

A land reforms policy with a five-fold objective was continued in the Sixth Plan. The objective envisaged (i) abolition of intermediary tenures; (ii) tenancy reforms aimed at security of tenure regulation of rent and conferment of ownership rights on tenants; (iii) ceiling on land-holdings and distribution of surplus land; (iv) consolidation of holdings; and (v) compilation and updating of land records. It was expected that legislative measures to confer ownership rights on tenants would be introduced in all States by 1981-82, that the programme of taking over and distribution of surplus ceiling land would be completed by 1982-83, that compilation updating of land records would be completed in a phased manner by 1985 and that consolidation of holdings would be taken up in all States with the aim of completing it in 10 years with priority being assigned to command areas of irrigation projects. In addition, Land Reforms Amendment Acts were to be brought within the Ninth Schedule, Ceiling laws were to be automatically enforced in command areas of irrigation systems and the State Governments were expected to take more initiative in the development of the Bhoodan lands.

Ceiling laws are prevalent all over the country except in the North-eastern region—Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh—where land is generally held by the community, and in the Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Goa, Daman & Diu. In other areas, the ceiling was first imposed on land-holdings in the fifties and sixties. Later National Guidelines on the subject were framed in 1972. Under the two sets of ceiling laws, 72.64 lakh acres of land have been declared surplus, 57.29 lakh acres have been taken possession of, and 43.30 lakh acres distributed. Thus, 29.34 lakh acres of land declared surplus have not been distributed so far. Of this 16.96 lakh acres are involved in litigation and 3.32 lakh acres have been reserved for specific public purposes. It would be seen that a very large chunk of surplus distributable land is blocked due to litigation. Jurisdiction of civil courts has been barred in respect of land reforms cases (because of their inclusion in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution). However, the writ jurisdiction of the High Courts and Supreme Court remains. Article 323B (42nd Amendment) of the Constitution provides for setting up land tribunals after extinguishing the writ jurisdiction of High Courts. But concerted action in this regard still remains to be taken.

Fifteen out of the 22 States in the country have enacted laws on cosolidation of land-holdings. Upto the year 1979-80, the cosolidated area in the country was 462 lakh hectares. Consolidation has been completed in Punjab and Haryana and is nearing completion in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Karnataka. Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have also started consolidation operations The total area consolidated during the Sixth Plan was 63 lakh hectares. Thus, the total area consolidated so far is 525 lakh hectares which is only 34 per cent of the total cropped area in the country. It is evident that efforts in this direction would have to be considerably stepped up.

(b) To review the progress of

implementation of land reforms and to formulate strategy to be adopted during the Seventh Plan a meeting of State Revenue Ministers was held on 18-5-1985. Recommendations made by the Conference have been sent to the State Government for necessary action.

The main recommendations are given below :

Abolition of Intermediaries :

(A) Pending work may be reviewed by 31-3-1986 for its early completion and legislative action may be taken within 2 years to abolish the few intermediary tenures still in existence and action completed by the end of the VIIth Plan.

Security of tenure and conferment of rights:

(B) (1) A drive should be undertaken for completion by 30-6-1986 by the official machinery to ascertain oral and insecure informal tenants and share-croppers with the help of panchayats voluntary organisations and local people and bring them on record, irrespective of whether tenancy is recognised or abolished in the State. This may be completed by 31-12-1986. Security of tenure should be ensured to all categories of tenants and share croppers.

(2) States where rent payable is higher than 1/4 to 1/5 of gross produce should bring it down.

(3) Ownership rights should be conferred on tenants and share-croppers after they pre brought on record. Legislative provisions for this where do not exist, should be made within 2 years.

(4) Unnecessary exemptions permitting tenancy against national policy should be reviewed and legislative or administrative action taken by 31-3-1986 to remove them as well as for banning of leasing except by specified exempted categories as per national policy and banning of transfers of agricultural land to non-agriculturists.

(5) State and Union Territories should consider moving towards a stricter definition of personal cultivation in order to prevent clandestine tenancies.

Protection of interests of tribals :

In order to protect the interests of tribals in land, existing provisions regarding banning of transfer of land belonging to tribals to non-tribals and its implementation may be reviewed and legislative action to plug loopholes and to cover shortcomings in order to take the implementption effective may he tafien by 31-12-1986.

Implementation of Land Ceiling :

(c) (1) Time bound remedial action should be taken for disposal of pending returns.

(2) Cases involved in litigation be got decided expeditiously. Creation of tribunals under Article 323 (B) of the Constitution and/or creation of Special Courts/Benches in High Courts for quick disposal of ceiling cases may he considered.

(3) Vigorous action to investigate the evasion and avoidance of law be taken, followed by concrete remedial measure, legislative and otherwise, within 2 years.

(4) Review of application of the ceiling laws in areas, irrigated by projects and schemes financed by public exchequer should be taken upto subject them to the appropriate ceiling.

(5) State may consider including major sons as members of the family retrospectively from January 24, 1971 for the computation of family ceiling units, restricting the provision for a separate family unit of ceiling for the major sons in respect of self acquire property only.

(6) Lowering of land ceiling limits to get more land for distribution and bringing land under religious and charitable institutions within the purview of normal ceiling limits may also be considered by States.

(*D*) *Land Records*

(1) Land records should be brought up to date by taking up a campaign observing 1985-86 as land record year.

(2) A system should be evolved for updating land records regularly.

(3) Non-land records States should introduce land and crop records expeditiously.

(4) Survey and settlement operation wherever pending should be expedited.

(5) Patta pass books with legal status should be issued to land Owners as well as tenants.

(*E*) *Consolidation of Holdings*

Consolidation of holding, to cover 25% of consolidable areas, be attempted during Seventh Plan giving priority to irrigated areas and on a selective basis to areas where holding of small and marginal farmers and ceiling surplus lands assignee are large in number of more efficient delivery of services.

(*F*) *Assignees of ceiling Surplus Land*

Linkage of the scheme of financial assistance to assignees of ceiling surplus land be forged with IRDP and other rural development programme.

Subscription to Language News Agencies

*11. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

SMT. MAIMOONA SULTAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to State :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to withdraw subscription payments to language news agencies viz. Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps, if any, are contemplated or are being taken by Government to set up autonomous language agencies on the lines of English news agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below).

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Statement

The Government had convened a meeting of leading editors and proprietors of language newspapers in the country to consider the provision of satisfactory service to language newspapers in the context of the condition of the existing Hindi news agencies, namely Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati.

The general consensus at the meeting was that it was not possible to revive the existing Hindi News Agencies and that it was for the proprietors and editors of newspapers themselves to establish and operate such a news agency service. A committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri R.N. Goenka to make an in-depth examination of various alternatives.

The Committee came to the conclusion that the creation of a full-fledged news agency with adequate technological back-up will require massive capital investment and running expenses which are beyond the reach of the language newspapers.